

September 7, 2010



SEPTEMBER, 2010, NEWSLETTER

In the 2009-10 legislative session that adjourned last week, we took major steps to reform our health care system. Several key bills (including one I authored, guaranteeing children access to health insurance, and capping insurance costs for sick kids) are headed for the Governor's desk. We passed legislation to help spur job creation and economic recovery (a subject I've been focused on as Co-Chair of the Assembly Jobs and Economic Recovery Task Force). We enacted major reforms to prevent outrageous government salaries and benefits like those uncovered in the City of Bell from being paid in the future. We collaborated on a bipartisan basis on a host of other important measures, including bills I wrote to help protect kids in L.A.'s child welfare system (jointly-authored with Speaker Emeritus Karen Bass) and assist in stalling Iran's military nuclear ambitions by preventing companies doing significant business in Iran's energy sector from receiving state or local contracts (jointly-authored with Assembly member Bob Blumenfield).

As I write this newsletter, however, there is no state budget that can garner support from two-thirds of the Legislature and the Governor. It's an incredibly frustrating stalemate, all the more for people directly affected by it: students poised to enter the University of California but unsure they can enroll because the state grants they were awarded are now on hold; seniors wondering if the lifeline services on which they rely to remain independent will continue to be available; unemployed workers and small business owners eagerly awaiting additional job creation measures that would gain bipartisan support if only the rest of the budget could only be agreed upon.

Enacting the budget remains my top priority. Recently there has been progress, and I hope and expect that by the time I send my October newsletter, our budget finally will be enacted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike Feuer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Mike' and last name 'Feuer' clearly legible.

Mike Feuer

CALIFORNIA JOBS BUDGET UPDATE



It's now common wisdom that small businesses are both the backbone of our economy and the key to our economic recovery. I'm committed to helping small businesses succeed during these challenging times by fighting to provide them critical assistance in the state budget.

Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez (D-Los Angeles), Assembly member V. Manuel Pérez (D-Coachella)--my co-

chair of the Assembly Jobs and Economic Recovery Task Force—and I have been working to find ways that the government can help small businesses spur job growth. The Task Force has been meeting with small business experts since April, 2010, and in August Speaker Perez convened a Small Business Round Table with the Task Force to zero in on concrete steps state government should take now.

Small business leaders told us they still confront serious difficulty gaining access to capital – an essential component for their expansion. Unfortunately, the federal Small Business Lending Act, a key proposal which would help unlock access to capital for small businesses, has remained idle in Congress due to a Senate Republican filibuster. That measure alone could provide over \$100 million to access to capital programs in California, leveraging several hundred million dollars in loans for small businesses.

If Congress does not approve these funds, California must ensure that its small businesses receive the access to capital they need to prosper. We intend to accomplish this by investing tens of millions of dollars from a \$300 million “jobs fund” proposed by Democratic leaders to revive and expand two state access-to-capital programs. Each dollar invested in these programs leverages five to ten times that dollar in loans to California small businesses.



We also plan to fund training for small businesses seeking help with contract procurement, business plan development, marketing and related needs. Finally, to complement our budget actions, the Legislature has approved 19 bills in a legislative package to cut red tape by streamlining state licensing and permitting, integrate education and workforce training services, and develop the green economy. I'll keep you updated on our progress.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The Governor has already signed one of my bills, while many others are headed to his desk. Here are quick summaries of just a few of these measures:

AB 2486 (Feuer) Teen Alcohol Safety Act: I'm pleased to announce that the Governor signed this bill last month. The Act, which takes effect January 1, 2011, deters adults from giving alcohol to teens by subjecting adults to civil liability if they knowingly provide alcohol to minors and harm results. (Previously, there were no civil consequences for harm arising from supplying alcohol to a teen.) It's my hope that the law will save young lives. *Signed by Governor.*

AB 2244 (Feuer) Children's Health Insurance: One of the most significant bills I've written this session, AB 2244 implements a new federal directive that all children, regardless of pre-existing condition, must have access to health insurance. In addition, the bill places an upper limit on what insurers can charge families of sick kids, and imposes tough penalties on insurers who refuse to cover children at all. *Pending before the Governor.*

AB 542 (Feuer) Hospital-Acquired Conditions Prevention: This bill will help ensure that health care facilities do all they can to prevent unfortunate hospital-acquired conditions from harming patients, and save money for California's state health insurance programs. Hospital-acquired conditions are defined by federal law and include such tragic events as operating on the wrong body part, leaving a foreign object inside the patient after surgery, or allowing bedsores to become so severe that they've broken through to the underlying muscle and bone. Recently-enacted federal law now prohibits state Medicaid programs from reimbursing for hospital-related conditions; AB 542 creates a task force to advise state regulators on how to implement this long-needed reform. *Pending before the Governor.*

AB 1650 (Feuer/Blumenfield) Disinvestment from Iranian Energy Sector: This bill ensures that California's tax dollars do not support companies whose investments support Iran's nuclear program, exportation of terror and brutal suppression of internal dissent. It precludes the State of California, as well as our cities and counties, from renewing or entering into contracts of \$1 million or more with companies that have substantial business in Iran's energy sector. *Pending before the Governor.*

AB 2756 (Blumenfield/Feuer) Mobile Billboard Ordinances: This bill addresses the traffic safety hazards and visual blight associated with mobile billboards. It gives local jurisdictions the authority to enact ordinances regulating these advertising displays, issue written warning citations in lieu of posting signs, and impose misdemeanor criminal penalties. *Pending before the Governor.*

TRANSIT UPDATES

405 Sepulveda Pass HOV Lane Project

Although this project has caused significant inconvenience to many of us, the results will be worth the delays. When it's finished, we will benefit from a continuous carpool lane running

from Orange County into the Valley; bridges with more lanes, wider sidewalks, and seismic safety standard upgrades; new on- and off-ramps with greater capacity; standardized widths on southbound lanes; and an improved level of service for neighboring intersections.

To help you plan ahead, I thought you should know about major upcoming construction activities through October. They are:

Wilshire segment:

- Santa Monica bridge widening
- SB I-405 at Wilshire - abutment forming
- Wall construction north of Wilshire Blvd
- Ohio Ave utility relocation and widening
- Beloit Ave sound wall demolition and reconstruction

Mulholland segment:

- Skirball Bridge traffic reconfiguration, demolition and reconstruction activity
- Early prep work for Mulholland Bridge
- Relocated southbound Skirball on-ramp construction
- Construction of retaining walls north of the Getty Trail Head to the Skirball Bridge

Sunset segment:

- Montana Undercrossing partial demolition and reconstruction
- Walls 1720/1730 (Sepulveda/Homedale) construction
- Sunset Bridge reconstruction (south side)
- Wall 1746 (north of Sunset) construction
- Sepulveda Undercrossing (Getty ramps)

For a detailed schedule of these activities, visit www.metro.net/projects_studies/I405.



Westside Subway Extension

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will be released in September. A public comment period will follow. My office will have more details soon.

30/10 Plan, Federal Funding, and AB 1078

As I described in my last newsletter, Mayor Villaraigosa, the Metro Board and many Los Angeles elected officials and community leaders support a plan to build 12 transit projects in Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan (funded by Measure R) in 10 years instead of 30 years. This unprecedented effort hinges on obtaining federal funds to speed up the schedule. The federal money would be secured by the sales tax revenue stream afforded by Measure R. Proponents of the plan are meeting with federal government officials to get their approval. In the meantime, I authored legislation (AB 1078), which the Legislature just passed, to

accelerate the 12 key projects if the federal funding comes through. The bill now awaits the Governor's signature.

UPCOMING TOWN HALL FOR WESTWOOD CONSTITUENTS

Please join me at my Westwood Town Hall meeting next month. I'll discuss key issues and be available to answer questions about what's going on in Sacramento and how it affects you. As always, I'm excited to hear your thoughts about how to improve our district and state government in general. The Westwood Homeowners Association, Comstock Hills Homeowners Association, Holmby-Westwood Property Owners Association, Westwood South of Santa Monica Homeowners Association, Tract 7260 and the Westwood Community Council are presenting this FREE event. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.



WHEN: 7:00 PM, Thursday, October 7, 2010

WHERE: Ziegler Hall at Sinai Temple, 10400 Wilshire Blvd. at Beverly Glen

For more information or to RSVP, please contact my district representative Ellen Isaacs at 310-285-5490 or ellen.isaacs@asm.ca.gov.

ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE PREVENTION FORUM – RECAP

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Elder Financial Abuse Prevention Forum last month. We had a great crowd (the event was fully-subscribed) at the Sherman Oaks Library. The Library hosted the forum, along with the Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce, the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association and my office. Speakers included representatives from AARP, the Center for Healthcare Rights, Federal Trade Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, WISE & Healthy Aging, and Bet Tzedek-The House of Justice.

We gave advice on how to avoid mail, internet, telemarketing, credit card, mortgage and Medicare fraud and provided information about legal options available to consumers. Seniors and their families should remain constantly alert for fraud, and everyone should be careful about giving out personal information—on the phone, via the internet, and at the front door.

I plan to host future forums on this and related topics throughout the district in the coming months. If you would like more information about fraud prevention, please contact my district staff at 310-285-5490 or 818-902-0521.

STANLEY MOSK DEFENDER OF JUSTICE AWARD

I'm very honored that the Judicial Council of California has voted to award me the Stanley Mosk Defender of Justice Award. The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. The Council is recognizing my work to improve Californians' access to justice, including my efforts to assure the courts are sufficiently funded and legislation I've authored, such as the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act, which creates a first-in-the-nation program to provide a right to counsel in civil cases.

NOMINATE YOUR CHOICE FOR THE 2010 WOMAN VETERAN OF THE YEAR!

You're invited to nominate a candidate for the California Woman Veteran of the Year. These awards recognize women veterans who have compiled records of exemplary service as members of the military, veterans, or outstanding members of their communities. The selection criteria focus on the nominee's achievements in the military, in support of veterans, commitment to women veterans' issues, and as a citizen in service of her hometown, the State of California, and the United States of America.

If you'd like to nominate a candidate, please contact Arianna Smith at arianna.smith@asm.ca.gov with the subject heading "Woman Veteran Award" by September 15, 2010.

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